of estimated production and employment for the year 2001-02 (latest available) is as under:-

Year	Production (Rs. crore)	Employment (lakh Nos.)
2001-02	6,90,316	192.23

(b) and (c) The structural reforms initiated by the government which include liberalisation and globalisation, have had mixed impact on the Small Scale Industries (SSI) in India. While these have exposed the SSI sector to greater competition both domestically and globally on one hand, they have on the other provided the SSI sector greater access to markets, cheaper imported raw materials and technologies. The SSI sector has demonstrated the resilience to withstand the competition as it has recorded a rate of growth, which is higher than the overall industrial growth.

Assistance to Singapore in combating terrorism

*224. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Singapore has sought India's assistance in effectively combating terrorism; and

(b) if so, the mutual facilitation of the security services proposed to contain the threat of terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, in view of the common concerns regarding terrorism, India and Singapore have had periodic exchange of views on this matter, including ongoing cooperation between the security agencies of the two countries.

Issuance of Passports

*225. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passports issued by Regional Passport Offices in the country during the last five years and till date, Regional Passport Office-wise and State-wise;

(b) the average time taken by passport offices in issuing passports;

(c) the number of applications pending for issuance of passports in the different passport offices during the last one year; and

(d) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to dispose these applications expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) A statement (Statement-I) is placed (*See* below).

(b) The average time taken for issuing a passport is six weeks provided clear police verification report has been received and documentation of applicant is complete.

(c) A statement (Statement-II) is placed (*See* below). The number of pendencies has come down significantly to 83,877 in 2002 from 3,43,487 in 2000.

(d) Measures taken for the expeditious disposal of pending applications include expediting police verification reports, ensuring that passport applications are received complete, computerisation of Passport Offices, machine writing of passports, decentralisation of receipt of passport applications and weekly monitoring of the pendency.

Statement-I

Number of Passports issued during last 5 years Passport Office-wise & State-wise

Sl. No.	Name of RPO/PO	State covered	No. of Passports issued 1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
1.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	152299	160741	148233	187838	193972
		Diu-UT	1231	1234	839	1086	1095
2.	Bangalore	Karnataka	98365	131472	123547	130670	140936
3.	Bareilly	Uttar Pradesh	44237	55944	32261	24855	17250
		Uttaranchal	NIL	NIL	4168	15033	12734
4.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	32408	38808	32124	35962	29594
		Chattisgarh	NIL	NIL	6207	6901	6405
5.	Bhubaneswar	Orissa	11075	14441	14193	17112	16265
6.	Chandigarh	Punjab	64314	102249	72120	100817	78045
		Haryana	19708	21659	22139	34232	41900
		Himachal Pradesh	6518	10031	5597	10877	7096
		Chandigarh-UT	10830	11807	11459	15688	13285
7.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu* Pondicherry-UT	134580	174014	150143	168860	179506
8.	Cochin	Kerala	109677	116742	100597	126182	128043
		Lakshadweep	345	334	277	385	344
9.	Delhi	Delhi	128839	151189	148941	171545	159652
		Haryana	11681	15609	18337	21867	18120

Sl. No.	Name of RPO/PO	State covered	No. of Passports issued 1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
		Uttar Pradesh	1057	NIL	Nil	NIL	NIL
10.	Ghaziabad	Uttar Pradesh	9742	20152	36578	38140	31894
11.	Guwahati	Assam	9216	8202	9876	11931	10823
		Arunachal Pradesh	120	112	186	501	565
		Manipur	912	755	980	1118	1120
		Meghalaya	1502	1205	1602	2293	1669
		Mizoram	787	501	805	1219	1132
		Nagaland	260	226	247	304	320
12.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh**	199544	212141	208156	244795	231530
		Pondicherry-UT					
13.	Jaipur	Rajasthan	59975	73299	66480	89232	96340
14.	Jalandhar	Punjab	98291	120549	129143	151916	127096
15.	Jammu	J&K	6695	7595	7984	11727	10143
16.	Kolkata	West Bengal	69690	85290	94785	112007	87460
		Sikkim	291	525	1007	976	1031
		Tripura	410	693	1010	1304	1082
17.	Kozhikode	Kerala	133940	164109	130107	162661	185788
		Pondicherry-UT (District of Mahe only)	463	635	581	678	688
18.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	101369	89624	90311	100051	1076
19.	Mumbai	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	44	104	111	204	147
		Daman	363	617	1036	1755	1393
		Maharashtra	307684	274117	148827	210025	204778
20.	Nagpur	Maharashtra	17683	18303	19275	21046	18034
21.	Panaji	Goa	18940	19195	18730	22959	25518
22.	Patna	Bihar	59267	56363	42198	41749	30099
		Jharkhand	NIL	NIL	1250	11705	8750
23.	Pune	Maharashtra		17761	36068	50557	48643
24.	Ranchi	Jharkhand	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	990
25.	Srinagar	J&K	5417	8868	5851	8364	9995
26.	Thane	Maharashtra		43731	41047	70254	71999
27.	Trichy	Tamil Nadu	135332	168026	146067	201076	18364
28.	Trivandrum	Kerala	82838	89238	75488	90649	92428
29.	Vishakhap	Andhra Pradesh	47625	49242	45273	51445	45777

* This includes the figures of U.T. Pondicherry except the districts of Mahe and Yanam.

** This includes the figures of District Yanam of U.T. Pondicherry.

Statement-II

Number of passport applications pending in various passport offices as on 31-12-02

S.No.	Passport Office	Applications pending as on 1.12.2002
1.	Ahmedabad	45797
2.	Bangalore	2118
3.	Bareilly	801
4.	Bhopal	44
5.	Bhubaneshwar	3366
6.	Kolkata	313
7.	Chandigarh	2365
8.	Chennai	2426
9.	Cochin	490
10.	Delhi	1335
11.	Ghaziabad	2233
12.	Guwahati	96
13.	Hyderabad	71
14.	Jaipur	4120
15.	Jalandhar	3677
16.	Jammu	40
17.	Kozhikode	4497
18.	Lucknow	1986
19.	Mumbai	1051
20.	Nagpur	36
21.	Panaji	170
22.	Patna	100
23.	Pune	NIL
24.	Srinagar	130
25.	Thane	NIL
26.	Trichy	3056
27.	Trivandrum	1225
28.	Visakhapatnam	2334
29.	Ranchi	NIL
	TOTAL	83877